



# Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

*Celebrating 34 Years of Leadership & Advocacy*

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## MEMBERS

Janet A. Neal  
President

John B. Troost  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Wan Chun Chang  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Alexia Teran  
Treasurer

Michael G. Gureckas  
John R. James  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Harley D. Rubenstein  
Kecia Weller  
Wendy L. Welt  
Sheila D. Wright

## **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, in Room 864 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by President Janet A. Neal at 1:00 p.m. The following were present:

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Present**

Janet A. Neal, President  
John B. Troost, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Alexia Teran, Treasurer  
John R. James  
Kecia B. Weller  
Sheila Wright

#### **Excused Absence**

Wan Chun Chang, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Maria Mustelier-Parrish  
Harley Rubenstein  
Wendy L. Welt

#### **Board of Supervisors**

Rhonda Rangel, Staff  
Mireya Rivera, Staff  
Audra Galang, Staff

#### **Access Services, Inc.**

Luis Pacheco

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

There being no quorum, the minutes were tabled to later in the meeting. On motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and unanimously carried, the minutes of November 18, 2009 were held in abeyance and awaiting for approval when there was a quorum.

In the presence of a quorum, the minutes of November 18, 2009 were unanimously approved, with First Vice President Troost abstaining, as submitted.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Linda Block provided public comments on the Medi-Cal cuts and the signs for the disabled people, seniors and veterans on the last rally that she participated.

Daniel Garcia provided public comment on the budget issue by the State of California Governor. He also commented on the Social Security benefit cuts.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Neal gave a brief description on the Episode 100 of Intervention on A & E, titled "Linda". She said that Linda has Ehler Danlos Syndrome and was being portrayed as delusional and a drug addict. President Neal also commented that there was no mentioning of assisting Linda with her disability and she is very upset that this episode was so one-sided.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Rhonda Rangel, Commission Service Staff, extended to everybody the Holiday Cheers from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Weller also extended a Happy Holiday and Prosperous New Year to all the staff members.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Neal reported the following Committees:

1. Executive and Public Relations Committee  
On motion of Commissioner Weller, seconded by Commissioner James, the annual retreat in January 2010 in an amount not to exceed \$800 was held in abeyance and awaiting for approval when a quorum was present.

In the presence of a quorum, the January 2010 retreat in an amount not to exceed \$800 was unanimously approved.

2. Events Committee  
On motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner James, the 2009 year-end wrap-up meeting refreshments in the amount not to exceed \$250 was held in abeyance and awaiting for approval when a quorum was present.

In the presence of a quorum, the refreshment expense in the amount of \$250 was unanimously approved.

3. Community Service  
No report.
4. Transportation Committee  
No report.

(Commissioner Sheila D. Wright joined the meeting at 2:03 p.m.)

### **TRANSPORTATION**

#### **A. Access Services, Inc. (ASI) Report**

Luis Pacheco reported ASI does not have Board meeting for December, 2009. The next meeting will be on January 10, 2010. Updates ASI received to be on the Agenda items for the next ASI meeting is the nomination and "Driver Incentive Program", a program to motivate drivers to do a good job.

After further discussion, the report was received and filed.

Daniel Garcia provided public comment on ASI services improvement with the exception of a recent issue of a bus driver.

#### **B. Blue Curb Zone Requests**

Alan Niño, Traffic Civil Engineer of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, shared information on requesting a blue curb zone for disabled people who do not have a private driveway or a garage. Mr. Niño said that a copy of the blue placard is necessary. On approval, implementation of a request to install blue curb will be submitted. The disabled community may file a petition and submit for issues. He also reported the average annual request the department has received was 250. Currently, there were 550 requests for blue curb zone the department has installed in unincorporated locations in Los Angeles County.

After further discussion, the report was received and filed.

President Neal thanked the speaker for his informative report.

**C. L A County Transportation Authority (METRO) Report**

Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer of METRO reported that in June of 2009, the Board passed the following eight items:

1. Distinct penalties on maltreatment of disabled people by the bus operators union.
2. Revised the system for the disabled people accessibility.
3. Established a direct link on METRO website to report by disabled people.
4. Evaluation of program to outreach communities.
5. Input from organizations the Board to report back for review on the implementation of the requirements.
6. Complete a report from vehicles depends on the needs of disabled community – post extensions to hold.
7. Engage current MTA Service Sector Council members, specifically those that are disabled patrons, to provide input and feedback on MTA's current and proposed policies involving disabled patrons.
8. Reorganization of staff people at Gateway Plaza-Union Station on May, 2010. CEO Art Leahy review incidents to correct issues; review the flow of information and processes all complaints and addressed them in a timely manner; determine feasibility and report back the results; receive the Mystery Rider Program; undercover rides; identify malpractices; and, monthly report on issues by the Committee for submission to CEO.

Copies of the report were distributed. After further discussion, Mr. Hazen's report was received and filed.

**REPORT BY FLOYD MCDONALD, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

Speaker was not present. Staff distributed copies of a report submitted by Floyd McDonald, Senior Deputy Compliance Officer.

**ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

1. Speaker from the Sheriff's Department on parking enforcement
2. Captioning the "Disability Network" on KTYM

Daniel Garcia addressed the Commission about housing in East Los Angeles area.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

There were no announcements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the regular meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

**GUESTS**

Chip Hazen, METRO

Daniel Garcia, East Los Angeles Regional Center

Linda Block

Melodie Stuart, Total Recall Captioning, Inc.

Mona Jean Cedar, Accommodating Ideas Interpreting Co.

Phyllis Coto, Los Angeles Client Coalition Center

Richard Fendrich, Accommodating Ideas Interpreting Co.